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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute for corresponding pending claims the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix II is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

Sub. B¹

1. (Amended) An input apparatus for game systems comprising:
an operation member adapted to receive a load; and
a detection unit capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in load in a predetermined direction in relation to said operation member,
said detection unit including a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic material, said coating member coating said sensing element and functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to said operation member to said sensing element,
said coating member being arranged to contact said operation member and support said operation member in the predetermined direction.

A17

2. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said coating member includes a protrusion for limiting a position to which the load toward said sensing element is transmitted into a certain range.

3. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sensing element includes one pair of electrode plates arranged to contact or separate from each other according to the load, and said coating member includes a protrusion for limiting a position to which the load toward said sensing element is transmitted, said protrusion being shifted from both longitudinal ends of said electrode plates into a central side thereof.

4. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 2 or 3, wherein said protrusion is arranged on an outer surface of said coating member.

5. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 2 or 3, wherein said protrusion is arranged on an inner surface of said coating member.

6. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a stopper for limiting displacement of said operation member in relation to the predetermined direction in a certain range.

Sub-B3 7. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least an outer surface portion of said operation member is formed into a panel, said detection unit being arranged to contact said outer surface portion of said operation member, and said stopper is located closer to a center of said operation member than that of said detection unit.

8. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 7, wherein said stopper adjoins said detection unit.

Sub. B47

9. (Amended) An input apparatus for game systems comprising:

a base having a plurality of panel-attaching sections;

an operation member arranged at each of said panel-attaching sections and adapted to receive a load;

a detection unit located between a panel-supporting surface formed on each of said panel-attaching sections and said operation member and capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in pushing load applied to said operation member,

said detection unit including a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic material, said coating member coating said sensing element and functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to said operation member to said sensing element,

said coating member being arranged to support said operation member by contacting said operation member.

10. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 9, wherein said detection unit comprises a plurality of detection units arranged at each of said panel-attaching sections such that said operation member is supported at a plurality of points around an outer circumference thereof, and a stopper for limiting an amount of

pushing operation toward said operation member is arranged at an inside of each detection unit.

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Sub. B5> 11. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1 or 9, wherein said operation member is a foot panel on which a player is able to stamp.

Please add the following claims.

Sub. B6>

--12. The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sensing element comprises a pair of opposed metallic plates and insulating means for separating said plates from one another, said coating member being arranged to overlie an upper one of said plates and lie below a lower one of said plates.

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13. The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said coating element defines an interior cavity, said sensing element being arranged in said cavity.

Sub. B7>

14. A foot switch for an input apparatus for game systems comprising:
a frame defining a support surface;
at least one detection unit arranged on said support surface of said frame and to output a detection signal in response to changes in a load applied in

a predetermined direction, each of said at least one detection unit comprising a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic and surrounding said sensing element; and

an operation member adapted to receive a load and arranged in contact with said coating member of said at least one detection unit such that said coating member supports said operation member on said frame and transmits the load received by said operation member to said sensing element.

A-18 15. The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said sensing element comprises a pair of opposed metallic plates and insulating means for separating said plates from one another, said coating member being arranged to overlie an upper one of said plates and lie below a lower one of said plates.

16. The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said coating element defines an interior cavity, said sensing element being arranged in said cavity.

17. The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said coating member includes a protrusion for limiting a position to which the load toward said sensing element is transmitted.

Sub. B8 > 18. The foot switch of claim 17, wherein said protrusion is arranged on at least one of an outer surface and an inner surface of said coating member.

19. The foot switch of claim 17, wherein said coating member is elongate and said protrusion extends longitudinally along said coating member, said protrusion being spaced from longitudinal ends of said coating member.

A18 20. The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said sensing element includes a pair of electrode plates arranged to contact or separate from each other according to the load, and said coating member includes a protrusion for limiting a position to which the load toward said sensing element is transmitted, said protrusion being spaced from both longitudinal ends of said electrode plates.

21. The foot switch of claim 14, further comprising at least one stopper for limiting displacement of said operation member.

22. The foot switch of claim 21, further comprising at least one sustaining plate arranged on said frame, said at least one detection unit and said at least one stopper being arranged on a respective one of said at least one sustaining plate.